

File Tokyo Bureau

BIS-11

11 March 1964

[redacted] Chief

Tokyo Bureau, FBIS
APO 503
San Francisco, California 94100

STAT

Dear [redacted]

Subject: Sourcelines

STAT

At long last I am able to break away from preoccupation with the ramifications of the Cyprus crisis long enough to respond to your 10 February 1964 letter on this subject. FYI, [redacted] is in Europe, visiting Vienna, Frankfurt, and London before returning here next week. He is delving into the longer-term implications and problems of the coverage shifts we have made thus far. I am therefore "off the hook" for the moment.

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Your letter, of course, touches on the heart of the sourceline system of the formulations evolved from interpretation of the rules. It must be recognized that imperfections exist--either in terms of FBIS usage or, more likely, in terms of consumer understanding. The answers, however, are complex especially if the need to tailor to local problems is involved. We are, for example, grappling with an acute problem along these lines for Latin American sourcelines.

Replying to your specifics regarding NHK, however, I would seize on your "quasi-governmental" classification and urge handling of NHK under sourcelines per B-1, Official: "Broadcasts under the acknowledged control of a quasi-governmental or a semi-government corporation." It is difficult to construe how an international service could be official while broadcasts by the same corporation to domestic audiences could be non-official.

While we could accept Tokyo NHK Domestic Service, we feel we cannot accept initials for other broadcasters but must require the English translations: Tokyo, Tokyo Broadcasting System in Japanese.

As mentioned earlier, however, the sourcelines are still evolving. May I ask you to hang on for a while. When we next revise portions of the sourceline book--probably in conjunction with the Latin American problem--we shall take your views into account.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]
Chief, Field Operations Staff, FBIS

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